

# Burr Oak Woods

Conservation Nature Center Newsletter

The **Nutshell** ~ June 2010

## Crazy for Catfish!

**Q**uick, what is Missouri's state fish? If you guessed the channel catfish, you got it right on the whisker! Speaking of whiskers, catfish have the coolest ones on the planet (although how seals can balance a ball using them comes in as a close second). Catfish "whiskers" are covered with thousands of microscopic tastebuds that they use to help navigate in muddy water. The rest of their body is also covered with special taste cells giving some people reason to call them giant swimming tongues.

**H**ere kitty kitty! Wouldn't it be nice if that would work with catfish? You wouldn't have to look at the weather report, phases of the moon, and take into account seasonal changes. But where is the sport in that? There is a fine science, almost an art, to catching these unique denizens of murky, otherworldly depths.

**S**ome would say that the key to a catfish is not very different than the key to a man. Yep, it is through the tastebuds. The catfish "science" that my family has found to work best is to find the slimiest, stinkiest cut bait that you can (bluegill, shad, and green sunfish are best), attach it securely to a strong hook (4-8 OT), 30 lb. test line, a 10 foot medium-action pole, throw it at least 30 feet out, put a glow stick on the pole tip, and sit back and wait. Be prepared to stay up late (peak time is 2-6:00 am) and have a large net handy. Catfish also tend to bite more when it has rained recently and when there is a sliver of new moon. Some like 3-5 inch live bait as well. That's my "science", what's yours? Come out and learn about some other effective techniques for catching Missouri's catfish on June 5.



**T**he statewide regulations applied all year round for flatheads and blues are a 5 daily limit and for channels it is a 10 daily limit and there are no statewide length limits. Most public fishing areas have methods, seasons, limits and other fishing regulations that are different than the statewide rules. It is your responsibility to find out what regulations apply to the waters you are fishing. Please refer to area brochures, bulletin boards, and signs before fishing these waters.

**Happy catfishing!**

*Lisa Richter*



**Join us for a Catfishin'!  
Program for all ages**

See detail on page two.

No registration is required.



## June Programs

Please call **816-228-3766** on or after **Tuesday, June 1** to register for the free programs listed. It is important to arrive five minutes before the program time. If you have to cancel, please call as soon as possible, so someone on the waiting list can attend.

**5 Saturday 1:00 – 3:00p**

**Catfishin'!**

**All Ages**



Learn the tricks to landing that whiskered lunger with guest speaker Brandon Stombaugh. We'll discuss different methods for catching catfish and when the best times are to go after them. We will even show you how to clean and cook these tasty native fish. No registration is required.

**10 Thursday 9:00 – 11:00 am**

**Wild Ones: In Wonder of Wildflowers**

**Adults**

Did you know that many of our Missouri wildflowers are edible? Join us as we discover the beauty, the interesting flavor, and the nutritional value of some of these colorful Missouri natives. Please call to register.

**12 Saturday 1:00 – 2:30 pm**

**Nature, Wild and Weird**

**Families WITH CHILDREN 5 & UP**

If you had no thumbs, how would your life be different? Animals have special adaptations to survive in their world, just like you and I. Join a naturalist to explore the crazy and unique adaptations of nature. Please call to register.



**19 Saturday 10:00 – 11:00 am**

**Trail Adventures**

**Ages 3 - 5**

What exciting mysteries await us outside? We will explore the wonderful and magical adventures of the J. Ernest Dunn Jr. Discovery Trail together. Please call to register.

## Programs taking the summer off

*The following monthly programs will take the summer off (June, July, and August)*

**BABES IN THE WOODS**

**LITTLE ACORNS**

**CONSERVATION KID'S CLUB**

**HOME SCHOOL**

**BIRDERS**

*Watch for the September/October newsletter for topics, dates, and times.*

**19 Saturday 1:00 – 2:00 pm**

**Secret Habitat Families WITH**

**CHILDREN 8 & UP**

Come and explore a unique habitat that is concealed from the road and trails. We will discover the plants and wildlife of a glade that lies hidden within the forest. Please call to register.



**26 Saturday 10:00 – 11:30 am**

**Native Garden Stepping Stone Art**

**Families WITH CHILDREN 5 & UP**

Step into summer with a helpful and decorative stepping stone! Learn this fun process and take home your own stone for your native garden. Bring a friend or family member and create a lasting memory together. Please call to register.

**26 Saturday 11:00 – Noon**

**Rockin' & Readin' Nature Tales**

**Ages 2 & up**

Join us for a story hour as we lead you on fantastic nature adventures! We will meet butterflies, birds, mammals, and all sorts of magnificent creatures! We will cross rivers, discover mysteries within the forest, and fly across the prairies. Our imaginations are the only limits. No registration required.

*Join us as we feed the critters on exhibit at Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 3p. Every other Friday the snakes will be fed at 3p.*





An illustration of a squirrel sitting on a tree branch on the left, looking towards the right. On the right, an owl is perched on a branch, looking towards the left. The background shows a forest with trees and a bright, hazy sky.

*Are your children ready ?*

# *Go WILD!*

*Programs are back for age groups:  
3 - 5 yr, 6 - 8 yr, 9 - 11 yr, or 12 - 18 yr*

*Registration is required for all Go WILD! programs, beginning Tuesday, June 1*

*All participants need to dress for the outdoors and the day's weather conditions, with sturdy shoes (No open toed shoes, sandals, or crocs), sunscreen, bug spray, and bottled water.*





REGISTRATION FOR GO WILD! PROGRAMS BEGINS  
**Tuesday  
June 1**



**3 - 5 YEARS OLD**

***June 30 Wednesday 10:00 – 11:30 am  
Nature Basics***

Enjoy some preschool fun with nature! Little ones need to bring their favorite adult for a morning of outdoor play and learning – counting, colors and shapes plus flowers, bugs and snakes!

***July 2 Friday 10:00 – 12 noon  
One Fish, Two Fish***

Get ready to feel the tug on your line. Fishing pulls us in, even at an early age. Join us as we dive into the world of fish. We'll even get to try our luck at cane pole fishing.

***July 21 Wednesday 9:00 – 11:00 am or  
July 22 Thursday 12:30 – 2:30 pm***

***Splish, Splash, Frog***

Capture the fun and some cool amphibians as we discover the wet world of frogs! Play the Big Frog Challenge game. Launch into song as we learn to sing like froggies and "swim" like tadpoles.

***July 27 Tuesday 9:00 – 11:00 am  
Busy Bugs***

Ants, spiders and other insects are hard at work during the summer? We'll set out to investigate insects and see just what each of these fascinating critters



**6 - 8 YEARS OLD**

***July 1 Thursday 10:00 – 1:00 pm***

***Eco-Explorer***

Become an explorer of wild places! As an eco-explorer you will investigate habitats, capture insects, and observe how everything in nature has an important job.

***July 2 Friday 1:00 – 3:00 pm or  
July 21 Wednesday 12 noon – 2:00 pm  
Life in a Pond***

Explore the mysteries that lie beneath the water's surface. Many creatures live in our ponds and streams that we may not see or know about. We'll grab nets and catch some of the interesting critters in our ponds.

***July 6 Tuesday 1:30 – 3:00 pm  
Goin' Creekin'***

What mysteries lie beneath the surface of a creek? Who lives here? Don't miss out on the fun! Join in on this "in depth" exploration. We will get wet!

***July 7 Wednesday 9:00 – 11:00 am or  
July 22 Thursday 9:00 – 11:00 am***

***Insect-A-Mania***

Challenge your observation skills as we explore the vast reaches of the prairie or the microcosms of the forest from an insect's point of view. Investigate at bug level as we magnify this tiny world. Identify critters so strange you may think they're from another planet.



## 12 - 18 YEARS OLD

**July 8 Tuesday 9:30 – 12 noon or**

**July 20 Tuesday 1:30 – 4:00 pm**

### ***Bethany Falls Trail Trek***

Many of us have hiked the beautiful Bethany Falls Trail, but have you ever wanted to know what secrets hide off the beaten path? Join us as we discover some of the unique features of this special area.

**July 9 Friday**

**8:30 am – 4:30 pm**

### ***The Wild Blue Yonder***

This is for serious hikers only! Bushwhack off-trail through 3-5 miles of rough terrain in search of the wonders and beauty of Burr Oak Woods. Test your basic campfire skills and orienteering techniques as we explore some of the lesser known places of these 1,000 acre woods.

**July 23 Friday 9:00 – 12 noon**

**July 30 Friday 9:00 – 12 noon**

### ***Surviving the Wild***

Help! I'm lost in the woods! Do you have the skills to make it? We will travel off the trails and try to find our way out. Along the way we'll learn the basics of fire, shelter, food, and reading the landscape.

**July 28 Wednesday 9:00 – 12 noon**

### ***Rocky Ecosystem: Now and Then***

The limestone outcrops found in our glades and woodlands are an important part of our landscape, past and present. These areas are home to unique plants and animals not found in prairies or forests. Please join us as we set out on a hike to investigate these important habitats!

## 9 - 11 YEARS OLD

**July 6 Tuesday 9:00 – 12 noon**

### ***Strange, Extraordinary, and Champion Trees!***

Become a giant hunter! Our assignment is to find the biggest, most incredible tree on the conservation area, and we need your help! You will learn to identify and measure a tree. We will then compare our findings, and determine the Champion for 2010!

**July 7 Wednesday 1:30 – 4:30 pm**

### ***Outdoor Nature Art***

Every time we venture outside, nature has something new to teach us. Nature's wonders are more beautiful than the priceless works of art man can create. Jump into this program for a first-hand experience of nature's art. You will make a wearable nature project to take home with you.

**July 8 Thursday 1:30 – 4:00 pm or**

**July 20 Tuesday 9:30 – 12 noon**

### ***Geocache Adventure***

Geocaching is a great way to pair technology and outdoor adventure. We'll provide the GPS units and a wild place to explore. You just need to provide the sense of adventure!

**July 23 Friday 1:00 – 3:00 pm**

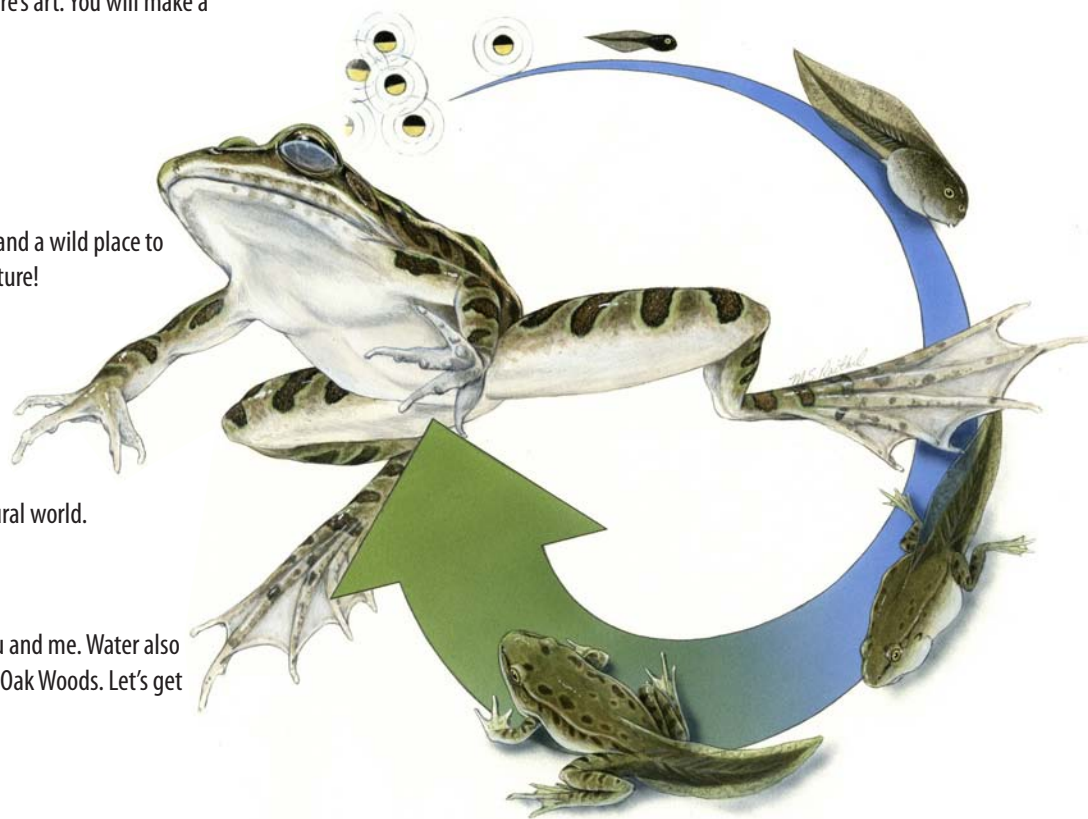
### ***Habitat Hike***

From forest to prairie to glade, the natural wonders of Missouri abound. We enjoy some of the most diverse habitats around. Join us as we trek the habitat trail and investigate the diversity of the natural world.

**July 29 Thursday 10:00 – 1:00 pm**

### ***Creek Cruisin'***

All living things need water to survive, including you and me. Water also provides habitat for many creatures that live at Burr Oak Woods. Let's get in and explore! Be ready to get your feet wet!







# Lake City Shooting Range

28505 E Truman Road, Buckner, Mo 64016

**816-249-3149**

[www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/lakecity/](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/lakecity/)



**June 4 Friday 9:00 – 11:00 am**

***Introduction to Archery***

***Ages 11-15***

Are you interested in experiencing a new outdoor sport? Archery is a sport that everyone can enjoy. Learn the basics for the proper shooting stance, arrow release, and the importance of a good sight alignment. Then test your new skills on the archery range. Please call to register.

**June 8 Tuesday 9:00 – 11:00 am**

***Teens and .22 cal***

***Ages 11-16***

It's more than plinking. Youths can increase plinking fun by learning the basics of marksmanship while improving accuracy. Join us for a fun shooting event on the range. Please call to register.

**June 17 Thursday 9:00 – 11:00 am**

***Beginner's Archery II***

***Ages 11-15***

Expand your knowledge and fun in the outdoors. Build on your fundamentals of archery by using different types of bows. Learn to shoot more accurately at distant targets. Participants must have attended Introduction to Archery.

**June 19 Saturday 8:00 – 11:30 am**

***Women's Firearm Safety-Phase I***

***Women 18 & up***

Thinking about introducing a firearm to the home? This course was designed for women who are interested in gaining knowledge about firearms. Topics discussed will include introducing a firearm into the home, storage of firearms, basic marksmanship, and laws regarding ownership of a firearm. Please call to register.



## ***Burr Oak Woods***

***Conservation Nature Center***

## ***2010 Volunteer Graduating Class***

We have a fantastic group of 19 new volunteers who completed volunteer training this spring at Burr Oak Woods. As you visit the Nature Center or attend our programs and special events, you will have the opportunity to meet these passionate volunteers. We are proud to have them all on our team!



*John Rittel, Deanna Rittel, Andi Rittel, Chris Buckman, Stacey Macha, Nikki Stevenson, Mikaela Jennings, Mark Owens, Josey Jorgensen, Courtney Payne, Shane Collins, Theresa Enderle, Sharon Takade, Jean Jones, Owen McGraw, Mike Winfrey, Not shown: Anna Cox, Lowell Burns, & Melissa Milburn*

## *A Micro-hiking We Will Go!*

You may be wondering, "Just what is a micro-hike?" Somewhere between a skip, a hop, a jump, and a stroll you may find yourself on one someday soon. The best "hikes" are often the ones you take in your own backyard. Just the other day, I FROZE and held my breath when I spotted a whole family of five-lined skinks basking in the afternoon sun right outside the front door of the nature center. When the newly metamorphasized toads emerged from the pond out front, we stepped carefully avoiding these tiny amphibians who resembled 1/2 inch long hopping bits of dirt. I recently spent 10 minutes of my lunch break photographing every stage in the life cycle of a ladybug. The caterpillar-like red and black larva had hatched out of tiny cup-shaped eggs and found a smorgasbord of aphids to eat. The larva hung in pupa (cocoon) stage like tiny red decorations. I even saw one of the adult ladybugs emerging from its pupal skin, its wings butter-soft and orange. There are so many amazing creatures to discover: tiny toads, super cool spiders, slimy slugs, adventurous ants, and much more! Just stop and look a little closer.

*Lisa Richter*



## *Burr Oak Woods*

### *2010 Frog Survey Team*



Frog and toad populations around the world are declining at an alarming rate due to habitat destruction, climate change, Chytrid fungus, and pollution. The staff and volunteers

at Burr Oak Woods Nature Center have responded by conducting auditory frog surveys for the past 3 years. Surveys such as this monitor the health of frog and toad populations. This is imperative to their conservation and long-term sustainability. There are 21 different species of frogs and toads in Missouri. Thus far, we have discovered seven species of frogs and toads on Burr Oak Woods Conservation Area.

## *The Last Monthly*

### *Nutshell Newsletter*

This is the last Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center "Nutshell" newsletter. Beginning in July you will receive the **ALL NEW** Kansas City "Nature & You" Regional newsletter. This newsletter will include events from your local Conservation Areas and Shooting Ranges in the Kansas City region. Kansas City "Nature & You" will be published six times a year, beginning with the July/August issue. Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center will continue to accept registration for its programs the first business day of the month in which the program is scheduled, unless otherwise indicated. There is nothing you need to do in order to continue receiving your hard copy or e-newsletter. Enjoy!





**Burr Oak Woods CNC**  
The Nutshell Newsletter  
Missouri Department of Conservation  
1401 NW Park Road - Blue Springs, Mo 64015

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## Nature Shop News

### *Tried & True Missouri Native Plants For Your Yard* guide

*Tried & True Missouri Native Plants For Your Yard is a new book that gardeners will find indispensable. It features 60 plus pages of 111 wildflowers, ferns, grasses, vines, shrubs, and trees for every imaginable landscape use, with notes on growing needs of each. Gorgeous color photos make it suitable for coffee-table display.*

**Feature Price**

**\$4.<sup>80</sup>**

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Heritage card discount does not apply.

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